

Summer Reading List 2022—English 10-Honors

Dear Rising Sophomore,

You finished your first year of high school—and now you embark on your second. You're a pro at this already, so you probably know what this letter entails: It's your summer reading assignment for your Honors English class!

You likely already know that reading amounts to the best way to meet the rigor awaiting you next year. For that reason, we have created a diverse list of British Literature pieces for the summer. For this Honors class, we expect you to read a minimum of four books over the summer and among them involve a few specific pieces.

Please note that, because you enter Honors-English, your assignments may differ from English 2R classes, especially since your summer tasks help prepare you for advanced work. On the following pages of this sheet, then, you should see assignments. You will use them during the discussions that will take place in your English class in September. Even if you have previously read these works, you should view them with a different lens through rereading them and completing the assigned work. You must have the required readings with you throughout the first months of school, but feel free to use the New York Public Library as a resource. For more information on *SimplyE*, the library's free version of Kindle, please access this link: <https://www.nypl.org/books-music-movies/ebookcentral/simplye>

Combined with choices from a non-fiction and fiction list, your work this summer should prepare you to push yourself above and beyond what you would expect.

If you should have any questions, feel free to email Ms. Esposito, the English Department Chairperson, at mesposito@prestonhs.org.

Have a great summer and see you in September!

Sincerely,
The Sophomore-Level Faculty

1. In order to prepare you for the upcoming year, you are required to complete the following:

Purchase and read *The Once and Future King* by T.H. White (ISBN 9780441627400), and *Night* by Elie Wiesel (ISBN 9780374500016)

As stated on page one, feel free to use *The New York Public Library's* free version of *Kindle*: <https://www.nypl.org/books-music-movies/ebookcentral/simplye>

2. Type a response to the following prompts:

In *The Once and Future King*, Arthur attempts to govern England in a new way, under the philosophy of “Might does not make right.” Find at least 3 examples in the novel of Arthur attempting to put this idea into practice. Find at least 3 examples of where he faces opposition to this idea.

For each example, use a direct quote from the novel, cite the page number, and explain how it demonstrates either Arthur attempting to put “Might does not make right” into practice, or how it demonstrates others opposing the idea of “Might does not make right.”

In *Night*, Eliezer is oppressed by others who use their “might” against him under the assumption that “might=right.” In the novel, find at least 3 examples where Eliezer is subjected to the “might” of others, even though it is not necessarily “right.” Follow the same format as for *The Once and Future King* with your quotes and examples.

In a concluding paragraph, explain whether or not you believe “Might does not make right” is a realistic philosophy and why. Use evidence from both novels to support your claims.

3. Read at least two more books. Choose one book that appeals to you from the fiction selections and one from the non-fiction selections starting on this document's page 3. You are expected to have completed all these books by the first day of class in September. Read for understanding and enjoyment and to broaden your cultural background. But be prepared to write knowledgeably about these books during the first week of classes.

Section One: Choose at least one title from this fiction section. Feel free to read more.

***The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, by Douglas Adams**

Join Douglas Adams's hapless hero Arthur Dent as he travels the galaxy with his intrepid pal Ford Prefect, getting into horrible messes and generally wreaking hilarious havoc. Aliens snatch Dent from Earth moments before a cosmic construction team obliterates the planet to build a freeway. You'll never read funnier science fiction; Adams is a master of intelligent satire, barbed wit, and comedic dialogue.

***Rebecca*, by Daphne DuMaurier**

This is a novel of mystery and passion, a dark psychological tale of secrets and betrayal, dead loves, and an estate called Manderley that is as much a presence as the humans who inhabit it.

***The Hobbit*, by J.R.R. Tolkien**

Encountering ruthless trolls, beastly orcs, gigantic spiders, and hungry wolves, the hobbit Bilbo Baggins discovers within himself astonishing strength and courage. And, at the ultimate confrontation with the fearsome dragon Smaug, the hobbit braves the dangers of dark and dragon fire alone and unaided. This story is the prequel to Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

***The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, by Arthur Conan Doyle**

From "A Scandal in Bohemia," in which Sherlock Holmes is famously outwitted by a woman, the captivating Irene Adler, to "The Five Orange Pips," in which the master detective is pitted against the Ku Klux Klan, to "The Final Problem," in which Holmes and his archenemy, Professor Moriarty, face each other in a showdown at the Reichenbach Falls, the stories that appear in *The Adventures and Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* bear witness to the flowering of author Arthur Conan Doyle's genius.

***A Tale of Two Cities*, by Charles Dickens**

Dickens painted a vivid picture of the French Revolution with melodrama set on a background of villainy and violence, built on the coincidence of an Englishman and a Frenchman who look alike. Dickens created a moving tale. In the end, a dissolute man, raised by a woman's love, becomes the hero.

***The Dark is Rising*, by Susan Meyer**

In this book, Will Stanton begins to have strange experiences on his eleventh birthday, just before Christmas. He soon learns he is one of the Old Ones, a guardian and warrior for The Light. He learns that he must help find the four Things of Power for The Light in order to battle the forces of The Dark. The first of these Things of Power is the Circle of Six Signs. This book is the key book for the main character, Will Stanton. It is in this book that he collects the six signs, which become the Circle of Signs, one of the Things of Power, by finding the additional five mandala (he has been given one earlier) and uses the completed Circle to ward off the forces of The Dark. This book received the 1974 Newbury Honor.

***Cat's Eye*, by Margaret Atwood**

Controversial painter Elaine Risley vividly reflects on her childhood and teenage years. Her strongest memories are of Cordelia, who was the leader of a trio of girls who were both very cruel and very kind to young Elaine, in ways that tint Elaine's perceptions of relationships and her world—not to mention her art—into the character's middle years. The novel unfolds in Canada of the mid-20th century, from World War II to the late 1980s, and includes a look at many of the cultural elements of that time, including feminism and various modern art movements. This book was a finalist for the 1988 Governor General's Award.

Section Two: Choose at least one non-fiction book from this section. Feel free to read more.

Shout: The Beatles in Their Generation, by Phillip Norman

Journalist and novelist Norman (*Rave On: The Biography of Buddy Holly*) here updates and revises his 1981 Beatles biography, which sold 125,000 copies. The book now includes information on Paul McCartney's and Ringo Starr's recent activities, details the tragic end of George Harrison's life, and seeks to present a more objective view of the contributions made by each Beatle (the 1981 edition was decidedly anti-McCartney). Norman also includes new insight into the complex relationship between John Lennon and Yoko Ono, the result of several interviews with Ono in recent years. While Norman's revision still seems a tad harsh on Harrison as a guitarist and McCartney as a human being, it is the most balanced, detailed, and highly analytical of the popular biographies of the Beatles. Priced to find its way into the home libraries of Beatles fans, this is also well worth purchasing as a replacement by libraries owning the first edition. From "Library Journal."

Down and Out in London and Paris, by George Orwell

What was a nice Eton boy like Eric Blair doing in scummy slums instead of being upwardly mobile at Oxford or Cambridge? Living *Down and Out in Paris and London*, repudiating respectable imperialist society, and reinventing himself as George Orwell. His 1933 debut book (ostensibly a novel, but overwhelmingly autobiographical) was rejected by that elitist publisher T.S. Eliot, perhaps because its close-up portrait of lowlife was too pungent for comfort.

In Paris, Orwell lived in verminous rooms and washed dishes at the overpriced "Hotel X," in a remarkably filthy, 110-degree kitchen. He met "eccentric people--people who have fallen into solitary, half-mad grooves of life and given up trying to be normal or decent." Though Orwell's tone is that of an outraged reformer, it's surprising how entertaining many of his adventures are: gnawing poverty only enlivens the imagination, and the wild characters he met often swindled each other and themselves. The wackiest tale involves a miser who ate cats, wore newspapers for underwear, invested 6,000 francs in cocaine, and hid it in a face-powder tin when the cops raided. They had to free him, because the apparently controlled substance turned out to be face powder instead of cocaine.

In London, Orwell studied begging with a crippled expert named Bozo, a great storyteller and philosopher. Orwell devotes a chapter to the fine points of London guttersnipe slang. Years later, he would put his lexical bent to work by inventing Newspeak, and draw on his down-and-out experience to evoke the plight of the Proles in [1984](#). Though marred by hints of unexamined anti-Semitism, Orwell's debut remains, as *The Nation* put it, "the most lucid portrait of poverty in the English language." --*Tim Appelo*

Blame my Brain, by Nicola Morgan

From the Q & A with author Nicola Morgan.

Q: What is it (Blame My Brain) about?

A: What's going on in your head. Why. Why it's important. How long it will last. And what you can do about it.

Q: What's so interesting about that? It's just a brain.

A: Yes, but there's fantastic new research into the teenage brain and what scientists have discovered in the last few years will amaze you. And reassure you. And amaze and reassure your parents.

The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure, by Hans Magnus Enzenberger

Bad dreams plague Robert until a mysterious creature called the Number Devil appears to him one night. Robert, who hates everything to do with numbers, thinks it just another nightmare, but, surprisingly, finds himself fascinated by the intricacies of mathematics as taught by the exacting but always enthusiastic Devil. In a series of 12 dreams, Robert (and the reader) are introduced to ever more complex theories, from different kinds of infinity to triangular numbers.

***Beethoven's Hair*, by Russell Martin**

A well-publicized 1994 Sotheby's auction listed, among other musical artifacts and ephemera on the block, a lock of Beethoven's hair. The high-bidders for the hair, two Beethoven enthusiasts, were easy enough to identify by their oddball names: one was a doctor named Che Guevara, the other a retired real estate developer named Ira Brilliant. But the real story is how did the lock end up on the auction block? More important, can we learn anything from a 175-year-old snippet of hair? Russell Martin has created a rich historical treasure hunt, an Indiana Jones-like tale of false leads, amazing breakthroughs, and incredible revelations. This unique and fascinating book is a moving testament to the power of music, the lure of relics, the heroism of the Resistance movement, and the brilliance of forensic science.

***Gertrude Bell: Queen of the Desert, Shaper of Nations*, by Georgiana Howell**

She was an English writer, traveler, political officer, administrator in Arabia, and an archaeologist who explored, mapped, and became highly important to British imperial policy-making due to her extensive travels in Greater Syria, Syria, Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, and Arabia. She was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1917. Bell, along with T. E Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia), helped establish the Hashemite dynasties in Jordan as well as in Iraq. She played a major role in establishing and helping administer the modern state of Iraq utilizing her unique perspectives from her travels and relations with tribal leaders throughout the Middle East. During her lifetime, she was highly beloved and trusted by British officials and given an immense amount of power for a woman in that time.

***The House of Windsor*, by Andrew Roberts**

The fifth volume in a five volume History of England, *The House of Windsor* has at its centre insights into and biographies of England during a the tumultuous twentieth century. The book traces the lives of monarchs of living memory and near past, from George V to the current Elizabeth the Second.

***The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic—and How It Changed Science, Cities, & the Modern World*, by Steven Johnson**

In 1854, when the existence of bacteria and the concept of waterborne disease are still unknown, two men, one a physician and the other a clergyman, successfully trace the source of a cholera epidemic to a contaminated well in an impoverished part of London.

***Angela's Ashes*, by Frank McCourt**

Born in Brooklyn in 1930 to recent Irish immigrants Malachy and Angela McCourt, Frank grew up in Limerick after his parents returned to Ireland because of poor prospects in America. It turns out that prospects weren't so great back in the old country either. Mix in abject poverty and frequent death, and illness and you have all the makings of a truly difficult early life. Fortunately, in McCourt's able hands it also has all the makings for a compelling memoir.

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